

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF **ACTION ON NUTRITION**



2016-2025

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS



ADVANCING THE GLOBAL NUTRITION AGENDA

The [proclamation of the United Nations \(UN\) Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025](#) – the Nutrition Decade – by the UN General Assembly in April 2016 builds on the commitments made by countries at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

It gives all nutrition stakeholders worldwide a 10-year window to achieve progress towards nutrition-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure that all people, at all times and of all ages, have access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets.

A sustained and coherent political focus is essential – and possible – for ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms.

WHY ARE COMMITMENTS NEEDED?

Most governments are currently off track to meet the [World Health Assembly \(WHA\) global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition and reducing non-communicable disease \(NCD\) risk factors](#), and thus will not meet the nutrition and food security targets of the [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) by 2030.

The Nutrition Decade – coordinated by a joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN /World Health Organization Secretariat – works to help countries turn global commitments into country-specific actions.

The Nutrition Decade calls on governments that committed to address all forms of malnutrition and diet-related NCDs at the WHA in 2012, at the ICN2 in 2014 and as part of the 2030 Agenda to:

- establish national nutrition targets in line with the [WHA global nutrition targets and diet-related NCD targets](#);
- commit to implement one or more of the [60 recommendations in the ICN2 Framework for Action](#); and
- allocate or mobilize adequate financial resources to support domestic and international action to achieve these targets.

To date, almost 90 percent of governments have developed food and nutrition policies and action plans. However, their implementation must be reviewed, improved, refined and scaled up if the world is to achieve the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets and the SDGs.

WHAT ARE SMART COMMITMENTS FOR ACTION?

The Nutrition Decade calls on Member States, regional political and economic communities and the global community to translate international resolutions, such as the [10 global and generic ICN2 commitments](#), into concrete, country-specific actions that will help improve nutrition globally by 2025. These should support government policy development, investments and action on the ground.

To achieve effective, and sustainable change, the Nutrition Decade works with countries to set SMART commitments for action:

S = Specific: Refers to a specific action and indicates who is responsible for implementing it.

M = Measurable: Includes an indicator to enable measuring progress and achieving the commitment.

A = Achievable: Refers to a realistic context based on availability of human and financial resources and level of progress achieved in the past.

R = Relevant: Reflects a country's situation, national priorities and the challenges it faces.

T = Time-bound: The key milestone is to be met within a realistic time frame for achievement.

Under the Nutrition Decade, governments can establish SMART commitments that are:

- based on existing national food and nutrition policies and action plans;
- in line with the transformative ambitions of ICN2, the SDGs and the WHA; and
- within action areas not previously addressed by existing policies and action plans.

Governments can make commitments at different levels, including at the level of municipalities, but such commitments should always be transmitted via central authorities to the Nutrition Decade Secretariat.

Regional political and economic communities, development banks and UN agencies can also submit commitments. Non-state actors may make commitments supporting government commitments and through international platforms, such as Nutrition for Growth (N4G).

SETTING, ACHIEVING AND MONITORING SMART COMMITMENTS

Government commitments under the Nutrition Decade will be included in an online repository and tracked on regular basis by country self-assessments to monitor progress.

The Nutrition Decade provides a 10-year time frame for action and monitors progress by governments and their partners in achieving concrete, focused and context-specific SMART commitments.

WHAT A SMART COMMITMENT MAY LOOK LIKE

Example: By 2020, the Ministry of Health has implemented a weekly iron/folic acid supplementation plan covering 80% of all adolescent girls in public secondary schools.

Specific?	Measurable?	Achievable?	Relevant?	Time-bound?
Yes: the 'who' and the action are identified	Yes: 80% coverage in all public secondary schools in the country	Yes: countries are already implementing these programmes, with even higher coverage	Yes: adolescent anaemia is a significant issue for this country, based on a situation analysis done	Yes: A concrete time frame is defined

For more information on setting and monitoring Nutrition Decade commitments for action, see: www.un.org/nutrition/commitments

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